

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

21. (new) A personally portable vacuum desiccator comprising:
 - a chamber having a trapping agent;
 - a vacuum pump in gas/liquid flow communication with said chamber;
 - a motor operably connected to said vacuum pump; and
 - a tube in gas/liquid flow communication with said chamber;said tube being positionable in gas/liquid flow communication with a wound or incision on a user;
 - said vacuum desiccator being transportable upon the user's person;
 - said vacuum pump being operable to draw fluid from the wound or incision through said tube and into said chamber;
 - said trapping agent having a capacity for trapping a volume of the fluid.
22. (new) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 wherein said trapping agent is selected from the group consisting of desiccants, adsorbents, and absorbents.
23. (new) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 wherein said tube comprises a single passage gas/liquid flow path.
24. (new) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 wherein said trapping agent is disposed within a cartridge that is removable from said desiccator.
25. (new) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 further comprising a control circuit in electrical communication with said motor for controlling the operation of said motor.
26. (new) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 25 wherein said control circuit comprises at least one sensor selected from the group consisting of moisture sensors, pressure sensors, and pressure differential sensors.
27. (new) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 25 wherein said control circuit comprises an I/O unit.
28. (new) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 wherein said chamber comprises a transparent material which allows observation of said trapping agent.

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Preliminary Amendment dated November 17, 2003
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Amendments to the Drawings:

Please substitute the attached formal drawings for the original informal drawings.

Attachment: Four (4) Replacement Sheets.